there *Megatherium, Mylodon, Macrauchenia, Hippidium, Mastodon* and many other quadrupeds. Mr. Otto Nordenskjöld has found tertiary plants there; remains of quadrupeds, will also be met with.

The Antarctic world offers a magnificent field for discovery to explorers.

ALBERT GAUDRY

QUOTATIONS

THE PHYSICIAN IN THE SCHOOL

THE International Conference on School Hygiene, held in London this month, raised many questions which should search the hearts of teachers, parents, and taxpayers in America. Some of these questions we have already been debating. In this city last winter Superintendent Maxwell urged that the eyes of school children be examined, and that glasses be provided—if necessary at public expense—for those whose sight is defective. The shortest way with such a proposal is to give it a bad name and damn it. Accordingly, the plan was received by a part of the press with jeers and cries of "Socialism!" Mr. Maxwell's reply was in effect that we are spending millions a year for teachers, buildings, text-books, and apparatus; and that it is worth while to lay out a little more in order to enable all the children to profit by these facilities. In an article in our own columns last April he said:

> It seems folly to supply books to children who can not read them, or to place children in classrooms when they can not see what is written or drawn on the blackboard. If the sight is defective, the child is hopelessly handicapped. The expenditure of a few thousand dollars for glasses would enable thousands of children who are now unable to do their school work to stand on the same level with their fellows.

These words sum up briefly the whole argument for the physical examination of school children and the attempt to keep them in such health that they can fairly avail themselves of the advantages offered. We can not dismiss the matter with a question-begging epithet. Our American school boards must consider the project on its merits, and decide whether, in justice to the children as well as to the community as a whole, we should not devote more attention to the physical well-being of pupils. —The New York *Evening Post.*

CURRENT NOTES ON LAND FORMS

OTAGO PENINSULA, NEW ZEALAND

OTAGO PENINSULA is a land-tied island on the east coast of southern New Zealand. An interesting account of its features is given by P. Marshall, professor of geology in Otago University at Dunedin, near the head of the Otago Bay, which the peninsula encloses. ("The Geology of Dunedin, New Zealand," *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.,* LXII., 1906, 381–424). The peninsula is a complex mass of volcanic rocks, which, while the district stood towards 1,000 feet higher than now, was submaturely dissected; that is, the valleys, still narrow and of rapid descent in their upper courses, became more open and of gentler descent in their middle and lower courses; and the slopes came to have only moderate declivity. During submergence to its present level, the mountainous mass was cut off from the mainland by the drowning of a connecting ridge on its northwestern side; it thus became an island, about 14 miles long northeast-southwest, and not more than six miles wide, with summits still reaching more than 1,000 feet above the sea, and with much irregularity of outline as would be expected. Since the district assumed this attitude, the exposed headlands, on the mainland as well as on the island, have been cut back in strong cliffs, from 300 to 800 feet high; the smaller reentrants have been filled with beach-fronted sands; the larger reentrants have been more or less completely enclosed by bay-mouth spits and bars; and Otago strait, as the original water passage back of the island might be called, has been closed at its southwest end, under the guidance of the prevailing long-shore current from the southwest, by a beach-fronted sand-isthmus, which converts the strait into a long bay. The southward direction of growth of several bay-mouth spits and reefs suggests that they are controlled by backset eddies, which sweep around the new-built shore lines between the projecting headlands in a direction opposite to that of the main, long-shore cur-